Item 8: Oral update on UNICEF humanitarian action

- We note and welcome this update on UNICEF’s humanitarian action and welcome the key role of humanitarian assistance in the new Strategic Plan 2022-2025 as well as the use of the evidence and recommendations from UNICEF’s Humanitarian Review and other evaluations to inform the formulation of the Plan.

- We appreciate the intention to address the root causes of conflict, crisis and displacement through cross-cutting programming on resilience, peacebuilding and climate action. We encourage UNICEF to continue building staff and governments’ capacities to respond to crises during the implementation of the Plan.

- We commend the organization for its COVID-19 program adaptations since early 2020 and its work in complex humanitarian emergencies in response to the exacerbated risk factors and increased challenges to the provision of services caused by the pandemic. We encourage UNICEF to have preparedness plans that include rosters of local, national, and regional consultants and stand-by partners with emergency response and humanitarian expertise.

- We commend UNICEF’s focus on safe programming, meaningful and inclusive community engagement, and targeting of the most marginalized and vulnerable populations to advance the empowerment of women, children and adolescents. We appreciate UNICEF’s prioritization of holistic prevention measures and interventions to address violence against women and children, and other harmful practices. We encourage UNICEF to continue prioritizing these efforts, and in particular to ensure that accountability to affected populations and the proactive protection of women and children from sexual exploitation and abuse, and other safeguarding concerns, are at the center of all UNICEF’s systems and programming.

- We commend UNICEF’s integrated programming to provide vulnerable populations with life-saving commodities and services in humanitarian emergencies, including water, sanitation and hygiene and infection prevention and control kits, child protection, gender-based violence prevention, education and nutritional support, and essential health services with medical supplies, alongside immunization for preventable diseases.

- We want to conclude with two requests: We ask UNICEF to provide a Humanitarian Action update to the next Executive Board with a detailed description of its efforts to measure success and the lessons learned from programming across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus within the new Strategic Plan, 2022-2025. We also ask for the Humanitarian Action Review report to be public to all partners and donors and that UNICEF provide an update to the Executive Board on the implementation of its recommendations.